(b) whether Government have started construction work with regard to all works cleared for execution under the said Yojana;

(c) the prescribed period for their completion; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The Ajmer-Bisalpur Water Supply Project Phase-II with an approved cost of Rs. 188.73 crore has been sanctioned for supply of additional quantity of water to Ajmer, Pushkar and allied beneficiary towns, namely, Kekri, Sarwar, Kishangarh, Beawar, Nasirabad and other rural areas of the district.

The State Government has awarded work order for the Project for the transmission main. The line is expected to be commissioned by 31st December, 2007.

Period of implementation of the project is 2 years.

Improving standard of Hockey and other sports

†1172. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the reasons for declining standard of hockey in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to improve the standard of all other sports including hockey and to impart training of international standard to the sports persons?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government are concerned over India's performance in hockey, which has been much below expectations in the recent years. The Indian Hockey Federation, which is primarily concerned with the development of the sport in the country and the performance of Indian Teams in international events, has stated that they are making sustained

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

efforts to restore the country to its rightful place in the world of hockey, and despite excellent preparations for the last World Cup and Asian Games, with the cooperation of the Sports Authority of India (SAI); in terms of well-structured coaching camps, scientific support, involvement of trained professionals and adequate match exposure, through assistance from this Ministry, the performance of the teams was not upto expectations because of unfortunate accidents, injury, involving some key players, and unexpected poor showing in some matches. The Indian Hockey Federation has further stated that they propose to nominate a small team of experts, led by a fully dedicated Coaching Director, to meticulously plan the Coaching Camps and arrange suitable facilities and scientific support in collaboration with the SAI and Sports Ministry, with the immediate aim being to build the team and qualify for the Olympics. In so far as the Government is concerned, the efforts of the Federation are being supplemented through the Scheme of Financial Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) and the Government will continue to provide all required support and monitor the performance.

(c) As already stated in reply to parts (a) and (b), the primary responsibility for the development of various sports disciplines vests in the National Sports Federations concerned. The Government supplements their efforts through assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of Indian sports persons/teams in international events abroad, training and arrangements for coaches, both Indian and foreign, procurement of equipment and consumables etc., as per agreed Long Term Development Plans. In this context, detailed discussions are also being held with the various NSFs and other stakeholders like the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and Sports Authority of India (SAI) etc., to furtehr streamline the processes of identification and nurturing of talent, development of well-planned strategies for the identification of elite sportspersons capable of winning medals and related training requirements such as exposure and participation in events at the international level, and other measures for the planned development of different sports disciplines. In addition, Government is also providing assistance to meritorious sportspersons for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and through the 'National Sports Development Fund'. Efforts are also being made to further expand and strengthen the infrastructure and arrangements for training etc., under the various schemes of the SAI, in the wake of which the number of trainees in the SAI system has already increased

from less than 10,000 at the beginning of the 10th Five Year Plan to over 13,000 at present, and is proposed to be further increased to around 50,000 by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan.

Promotion of sports infrastructure in NE region

1173. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken by Government for development and promotion of sports infrastructure in the North-Eastern Region, particularly in the State of Sikkim;

(b) the details of plan formulated and being implemented in the above States; and

(c) the details of amount sanctioned, released and actually spent under the implementation of the above scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) 'Sports' being a State subject in the Constitution, the primarily responsibility for creation of sports facilities throughout the country lies with the State Government. Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing of efforts of the State Governments including the Northh-Eastern Region, for creation of sports facilities in various States by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes in accordance with the approved' pattern. With effect from 1.4.2005, the Sports Infrastructure Schemes were transferred to the State Sector. Thus, fresh cases of Sports Infrastructure projects will now have to be funded by State Governments out of their own resources. However, funds to the extent of committed liabilities will be provided for ongoing approved Sports Infrastructure projects during the remaining period of the Tenth Plan.

State-wise details of funds released of NE States from 2003-04 to 2006-07 (as on 5.3.2007) under the earstwhile scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure' are given in the Statement. (*See* below). Since no viable proposals were received from Sikkim under this scheme, no funds were sanctioned. However, an amount of Rs. 15.36 crore was sanctioned by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the Paljor Stadium, in Gangtok in 2001-02 and work on the same has been completed in 2004-05.